

Restorative Questions

Using restorative questions can resolve conflicts and encourage everyone to think about their feelings and those of others. They also encourage everyone to discuss what should happen next. The most important thing to remember when asking these questions is to say them in a **calm** and **neutral** voice, **without directing blame** at one person. The questions and discussion will prompt children to resolve the issue.

Try to avoid asking 'why'? It is usually the first question we ask... 'Why did you do that?' but if you think about it, most children say 'I don't know' because it is a very hard question to answer.

- What happened?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- What do you think about it now?
- How has this affected you?
- How has this affected others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think should happen now?



Each person should be asked each question, however if you witnessed them doing something wrong or they have admitted any wrongdoing, you could also ask the following questions.

- Who has been affected by what you did?
- In what way do you think they have been affected?
- What do you think needs to happen next?

It is much better to allow the children to resolve their problems by talking it through. A restorative circle usually results in children discussing what has happened, admitting any wrongdoing, sharing feelings and thinking of ideas to move forward. It is an important process for both the wrongdoer and the victim. They both have their voices heard and are part of the process of resolving the problem.